



*FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Phoenix, Arizona*



*United States Attorney's Office
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

TWO GILA RIVER MEN INDICTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER, KIDNAPING AND OTHER CHARGES

PHOENIX - The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Phoenix Division, announced here that on June 8, 2005 a federal grand jury indicted two men allegedly involved in the brutal attack of Arturo Lopez-Rodriguez. Joseph Santos, 22, and Nicholas Penn, 22, both of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Ariz., were each charged with five counts including conspiracy, kidnaping, attempted murder and two counts of assault.

Lopez-Rodriguez was rescued by searchers on the afternoon of Friday, June 2, 2005. The indictment indicates that Lopez-Rodriguez had been assaulted, stabbed multiple times, tied up with electrical cords and a cell phone charger cord, wrapped in sheets and trash bags and then left for dead in a remote area on the Gila River Indian Reservation. Lopez-Rodriguez is expected to recover from his injuries.

Penn was arrested by the FBI's Violent Crimes Fugitive Task Force on June 6, 2005 for a violation of supervised release and is currently in federal custody. Penn will appear before Magistrate Judge Virginia Mathis for a status hearing on the violation of his supervised release on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at 11 a.m. Santos was taken into custody by the Gila River Police Department on June 3, 2005 and currently remains in their custody. Santos is scheduled for an initial appearance in federal court on Monday, June 13, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

Penalties for Conspiracy to Commit Kidnaping and Kidnaping each carry a maximum sentence of life in prison, Attempted Murder carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury each carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison plus possible fines of \$250,000 for each count.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the FBI with assistance from the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Sharon Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0545-PHX
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